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Practical Field Geology. By J. H. FARRELL. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1912. Pp. 273+xi; figs. 66; tables 4. \$2.50.

The title of this handbook is in a sense misleading. Instead of being an exposition of approved methods with practical pointers and helpful short cuts for the use of the general geologist in the field, the word practical is here construed as synonymous with mining, and the book is avowedly limited to a treatment of the field methods employed by mining geologists, engineers, and prospectors. Within the field of mining its scope is further limited by the omission of coal and iron from consideration. And in value coal and iron are the greatest of our mining products.

But within its own chosen field the book can be recommended as a useful guide. In the first five chapters the methods of topographic mapping and some of the simpler phases and problems of geologic mapping are well described and presented so as to be available for use by those who have not had the advantages of elaborate training along geological lines. Then come very readable and instructive chapters on the interpretation of geologic data, general suggestions for geologic work, geological measurements, application of descriptive geometry to mining problems, application of geological theory, rock classification, geological prospecting, and prospecting by drilling. These discussions should be of value to those entering the field of economic geology without specialized training in that line.

Following the main part of the book is a guide to the "sight recognition" of 120 common or important minerals, by A. J. Moses.

R. T. C.

The Coal Fields of King County. By GEORGE WATKINS EVANS. Bull. No. 3, Washington Geol. Surv. Pp. 247; figs. 59; pls. 23. Olympia, 1912.

Washington is the only state on the Pacific coast which produces coal in any quantity and most of this comes from the region between Puget Sound and the main range of the Cascades, principally from King and Pierce counties. The coal beds of these two counties belong to the Puget formation whose age has been determined as Eocene. In character this coal ranges from lignitic bituminous in the less disturbed western part of King County to a bituminous coal in the eastern portion where crustal movements and igneous activity have been more severe. It is a coal that is suited to a great many purposes, though it is not the